

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR F-14 PROGRAM

1. ONE YEAR FROM NOW SEVERAL HUNDRED GRUMMAN, HUGHES AND OTHER CONTRACTOR FAMILIES WILL ARRIVE IN ISFAHAN TO SUPPORT IRAN'S NEW F-14'S. AS THINGS ARE NOW GOING, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER HOUSING AND FACILITIES WILL BE READY FOR THESE NEWCOMERS IF THEY ARRIVE ON SCHEDULE.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THERE ARE STILL DIFFICULTIES WITH BELL PERSONNEL AT ISFAHAN, IN PART AS A RESULT OF IRANIAN FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROMISED SUPPORT. MANY PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM CULTURAL DIFFICULTIES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF BELL PERSONNEL, WHO COMPRISE VERY VISIBLE PORTION OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ISFAHAN RESIDED IN SPECIALLY DESIGNED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY. SIGNIFICANT DELAYS AND START-UP PROBLEMS WERE EXPERIENCED IN BELL PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF GOI LACK OF PREPARATION FOR FACILITIES, MANPOWER, AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, GOI'S OFTEN CUMBERSOME DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES HAVE DELAYED GETTING URGENTLY REQUIRED SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM AS REQUIREMENTS ARE DEFINED.

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3. BECAUSE OF BELL EXPERIENCE, WE DISCUSSED PRESENT OUTLOOK FOR F-14 PROGRAM SUPPORT WITH LOCAL CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVES AND RECENTLY VISITING BOOZ, ALLEN TEAM. WE SHARE THEIR CONCERN THAT UNLESS USG ACTS PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY, F-14 PROGRAM (LIKE BELL) WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYED AND PLAGUED WITH START-UP PROBLEMS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PUT F-14 SUPPORT UNDER FMS PROCEDURES AND ASSUME THAT DOD OR NAVY WILL CONTRACT WITH GRUMMAN AND OTHER COMPANIES. WE ALSO HEAR THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO HAVE BOOZ, ALLEN PERFORM CONTRACT SUPERVISION FOR NAVY. IF SO, WHEN WILL CONTRACT BE SIGNED? WILL IT INCLUDE ASSURANCES FOR COMPANIES THAT HOUSING AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED IN TIMELY MANNER? WILL DOD, NAVY OR BOOZ, ALLEN INTERVENE WITH GOI TO ASSURE THAT EARLY START IS MADE ON CONSTRUCTION AND THAT IT IS PUSHED FORWARD TO COMPLETION BEFORE ARRIVAL OF CONTRACTOR STAFF? WHAT IS ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF NAVY AND BOOZ, ALLEN PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED TO IRAN?

5. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT WILL BRING US UP TO DATE ON PLANNING OF F-14 SUPPORT.
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